

WRESTLING FORUM

JULY 30, 1991

VOLUME VI

ISSUE 12

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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AND NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO FRIENDS AND FAM-I-LY

That sounds a lot better if you sing it rather than just reading it. We have a signed agreement now to sell the Forum, and the final issue that I will be editing will be the August 30 edition. Then, we turn it over to the new guys. Hey, at least I get to pan a WWF Pay Per View one final time...

For a while, I will still be handling subscriptions and stuff, and sending stuff along to the new guys. That will allow them to concentrate on the printed matter while I handle the minor stuff. This way, they can work into things gradually.

So because of that, here's the subscription information until further notice. This is Wrestling Forum and we publish on the 15th and 30th of each month. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at one time. Until further notice, all correspondence including renewals, results, news and other stuff can be sent to **WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448.**

And before we go any further, let's introduce you to our new owners:



How and where do we start?

Okay, first off, we're not going to tell you who we are. We have very good reasons for this. Anyone who wants to go to the trouble of looking up records will be able to find out, but that's a lot of work for nothing.

The reasons we're not going to tell you who we are is because we both have a lot of friends who are wrestlers. We're afraid that if they know we do a newsletter, they won't be as open with us as they are now.

Also, when we go to matches, we want to be with the people we normally are. We don't want any special treatment because *we do a sheet*.

There are (if you hadn't guessed by now) two of us who will share the editing chores. Jon will continue to advise us on many things, so you've got a lot of experience going here.

Wrestling Forum at one time was the second most popular newsletter on the market. Steve Beverly and Wade Keller hadn't even thought about doing a newsletter yet. Wrestlers and front office people considered the Observer and the Forum the "Time and Newsweek" of the newsletter industry.

We're not sure what happened. Maybe someday Jon will tell us the whole story. But there's one thing we know. Wrestling Forum can still be a dominate force in the newsletter industry. It can make it back to number two and possibly even to number one.

In this issue, you'll find a survey that we would appreciate you filling out. You are the ones that will shape our future. It's a long road back, but with your help, we're going to make it.

READERSHIP SURVEY

We decided purchase Wrestling Forum based on several reasons. One of the main reasons was the variety of features contained. We also want to be conscious of the readership. Because of this, we are asking that you fill out the survey below and return it so that we can see just what features are well received and which are not. A photocopy of this page will be sufficient. You may sign the form if you like, but that is not necessary. The lower the number, the less you like it. Circle the number that pertains to the article you are rating. Thank you.

FEATURE	RATING		
	dump it	it's okay	keep it!
Wrestling Barometer	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Wrestling Forum Tournament	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Letters Page	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Wrestlers Are People Too	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Phantom of the Ring	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
The Third Fall	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Bio	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Results From All Over	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		
Guest Editorials	1 -- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10		

Things I'd like to see in the Forum: _____

THINGS I WOULD CHANGE ABOUT THE FORUM: _____

HOW MUCH IS A FAIR PRICE TO PAY PER ISSUE IN THE CURRENT FORMAT: _____

WHAT IS THE MOST YOU WOULD PAY PER ISSUE IN THE CURRENT FORMAT? _____ (this does not mean a price increase is coming, it's just to get an idea of what we are worth)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COVERAGE OF JAPANESE PROMOTIONS? _____ MEXICAN _____ ENGLISH _____

I•N•D•E•P•E•N•D•E•N•T•L•Y S•P•E•A•K•I•N•G

GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Buddy Landell's track record for lasting just a few weeks with any one promotion will not change. He's been fired already after no showing a Friday night card in Dallas.

Lightening Kid won a tournament for the light heavyweight championship of the group. It came down to Kid, Steve Simpson, and Jerry Lynn. Lynn got a bye into the final match and faced Lightening Kid.

This past weekend, the group cut ticket prices from \$5 to just a buck in order to spark attendance for the tag team tournament. Chris Walker (a very impressive rookie) and Steve Simpson won over Makhhan Singh and Cactus Jack in the finals. Again, as it has been with all the tournaments here, it came down to three remaining with the third team consisting of Scotty the Body and Rip Rogers.

Chris Love, who is most well known for managing Tully Blanchard in Southwest Championship Wrestling (Chris used a gay gimmick, though no one is sure if it was a gimmick or not) is here and managing, at least for the time being, Brian Adias.

Rosta the Voodooon (Lester Speight) went back to the Baltimore area this past weekend to work a couple of shows before joining Pedicino's Georgia group for a couple of spot shows. While there, he informed the local promoter (who had trained him and come up with the Voodooon gimmick) that he couldn't work for him after these shows because Pedicino wouldn't let him. According to Speight, he could work for him under any gimmick other than Rosta. Some hard feelings may develop on account of this.

OTHER INDEPENDENTS

Dennis Coralluzo, an independent promoter in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area, is trying to book "the I Quit Match 2" with Terry Funk and Ric Flair. The only problem at this point is that Flair hasn't made a commitment to anyone and Funk's back is questionable after a serious injury in Japan.

Herb Abrams taped another set of shows from Fort Lauderdale on 7/20. As usual, nothing to write home about. It is said that Paul Orndorff and Bob Orton both walked out of the taping halfway through and several wrestlers who were scheduled to be on the show didn't show up. No shows were Cactus Jack,

Sonny Beach, Dan Spivey and Johnny Ace. The rumor was that they were all headed to Global and that Abrams and Pedicino both refused to let them work both promotions. Orndorff and Orton are said to have left because of a pay dispute.

Rob Russen's IWA just completed a tour of Australia where they worked about 30 dates. It had been more than five years since an American promotion had run in the land down under, and average attendance for the shows was about 2500. Preston Steele toured as International champion while Larry Cameron toured as the world champ (must have been that fine manager he had in January of 88 that did it). Also making the trip were Paul Orndorff, Derrick "Glass Jaw" Dukes, Terminator (Mark Laurinatis - Road Warrior Animal's little brother), Cousin Luke (bet he got over big) and others.

Verne Gagne is threatening to run a few shows again. We're hearing that he may be doing a few fair dates close to his Minneapolis base. Another source informs us that he talked with Gagne about training and Verne was willing to do that. Don't expect anything major, though.

John Arrezzi is putting together another fan convention in New York for the end of the month. He's managed to sign Flair, Sammartino, Superstar Graham, Bruno, and Lou Thesz to do autograph sessions, plus Jim Cornette, Moolah and others will make appearances during the two day event. Dates are scheduled for August 24 & 25.

Eddie Mansfield held another taping in Orlando for his new International Wrestling Federation. Kevin Kelly & Eddie Mansfield are the TV announcers, and newsletter editor Ron Lemieux handles the mike in the ring. Champions for the group include IWF Heavyweight: Mondo Clean, Tag team champions: The Heartbreakers (Mr. Terrific & Big Till), TV Champ is Cliff Anderson (who bears a strong resemblance to Ole and Arn). This taping encompassed five weeks and mainly set up the feud between the Heartbreakers and Thunder & Lightning, as the two teams did run ins on each others' matches.

Those of you who remember wrestling in the 50's and 60's will surely remember a character called Mr. Moto. We received word this past week that Mr. Moto, a.k.a Charles Iwamoto, had passed away at the age of 71 from a heart attack. We reported the death of his former tag team partner, Duke Keomuka last issue. They died within days of each other. Our prayers go out to the Iwamoto family along with our deepest sympathy.

PENCIL POINTS



THE BAIT AND SWITCH

I was not at all surprised to learn of the bait and switch tactics discussed in the WCW section of the *Forum* V6111 (July 15, 1991). Making one purchase tickets for more expensive seats, by reason of the cheap seats being sold out is incredible, but not uncommon in other facets of life. Everyone knows what the "oldest profession" may be, but Bait and Switch may be the oldest sales tactic known to man.

Remember the last time you saw an ad for an appliance and went into the store, only to learn that this loss leader had been sold out? But you could a) take a raincheck on the item, or b) look at the super-delux model with more features and a higher price. I am sure you could look at a dozen or so types of products and remember when this had happened to you (If Jim Herd had become the Vinnie of the Pizza world, he may have made the 16" pizza the only available size).

I attended the 7/14 Baltimore Bash live. The Baltimore arena is a typical rectangular shaped hall, with three levels besides the floor area. What the people watching the PPV did not see was that WCW stacked the deck so to speak. Each level section is numbered 100, 200 and 300 with 300 being the rafters. Odd and even numbers in each section would indicate different sides of the building (e.g. 104 one side; 105 the other). When I went to purchase tickets, I was informed that all of the floor and section 100 tickets were sold out, which I accepted without question, so I purchased four section 200 tickets at a cost of \$22.50 each (including service charge). When my friends and I arrived and watched the arena fill up, we noticed that only our side was filling up, and very few people were on the other side. Oddly enough, the WCW cameras were on the other side (stationary cameras other than the mobile units at ringside). WCW wanted you to believe that we were "hanging from the rafters", when in fact, the place was not even nearly a sell out. Had I been one of the section 300 rafter dwellers, I would have been very ticked off considering that I could have had, and would have been willing to pay for a much better seat on the other side. I did not talk to anyone in Nose Bleed Alley, so I do not know what they paid for their seats. Is this another form of Bait and Switch? I think so. If the WCW had any business sense, they would have reduced the ticket prices, insuring a packed house, or a sell out. That way, it looks good on TV. The majority of their profits would have been from the PPV receipts anyway.

If WCW or any other wrestling promotion would want to continue the fine art of Bait and Switch, here are but of only a few ideas in which to do so:

- Promise a Missy Hyatt Lingerie Match/Get Ronnie Garvin in drag
- Promise a free autograph session with the stars/have Nermal Sr. sign for \$5 a pop
- Let a major promotion plan your next non profit Organization's event/you get Baron Von Rashke, a jobber and an AWA sign (you pay airfare)
- Send in a coupon with \$3000 to join a big wrestling school/you get a blank prescription pad and a map to Harrisburg, PA

•PAT RAFFERTY•
•BALTIMORE, MD•

Editor: Gary Juster is the promoter for both Chicago and Baltimore where both of these instances took place. Gary has never been accused by this publication of having a lick of business sense.

FORUM FUN

You know what I like best about the Forum, and what I'll miss most if you leave the editorship? Your ability and willingness to poke fun at not only wrestlers, but at yourself. The Top Ten Reasons We Don't Publish on Time was a classic. Can you come up with more?

•STEVE DECKER•
•PENN HILLS, PA•

Editor: Sure. That was just the top ten. We've got a million excuses.

RIC FLAIR

Wrestling fans complain because wrestling is not covered in the sports pages. They complain because wrestling is not treated as legitimate sport. They become indignant when a sportswriter makes fun of wrestling and its fans. However, when a wrestling promotion does something that resembles a legitimate sports franchise, fans whine and complain.

In all major league sports, a player is released when he has no further value to the team. When his performance is sub-par, or when he has lost his drawing power, he's put on waivers. Since you're a Dodger fan, you probably agreed with their decision to waive Fernando Valenzuela this year.

Flair is no different. Sure, he has some years left, but not years where he's at the top of his game. He doesn't draw anymore (then again, neither does the whole WCW). Why pay him an outrageous sum of money for what he produces.

People talk about him being loyal. When you are receiving a paycheck from someone - anyone - you *should* be loyal.

I'll miss Flair, but I will also understand Jim Herd's decision to get rid of him.

•NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST•

World Championship Wrestling

THIS JUST IN AS WE WERE GOING TO PRESS: It appears that Jim Herd and Dusty Rhodes have been fired by WCW. According to our source (we have been unable to confirm) the firing took place Friday 8/2. Rumored to be in line for the booker's job are Bill Watts, Greg Gagne, Jim Cornette and Ric Flair. We'll have more details next issue.

There are a few things left over from the Bash to talk about. Personally, I'd rather leave a dead horse lay until the animal control officers come for it, but...

The last few weeks of TBS shows were taped before the Bash, so the announcers knew what was going to be happening, and so they talked about it before it happened. One major snafu that could have been edited out *IF* World Championship Wrestling employed even *ONE* person who knew what they were doing.

Jim Ross was talking with Missy Hyatt. The original plan had her pinning Paul E Dangerously at the Bash. But someone forgot to check with the Maryland State Athletic Commission. They have this rule that prohibits mixed matches, i.e. male vs female. That's why the Hardliners had to come out and kidnap Missy before the match. So what Ross does is ask Missy about her performance at the Bash and Missy tells us how happy she was with it. Happy about being thrown over Dick Murdoch's shoulder? Or maybe she was talking about her performance *after* she was kidnapped. What a bunch of dummies!

The mis management continues. It is not an isolated case here or there. It seems that everything they do gets screwed up somehow. I'm afraid the only way to solve the problem is a total house cleaning.

Witness this. On the TBS show, this past weekend (7/27), they run down the remaining Bash tour. Not once, but several times, this idiot announcer they have (have you ever heard such an obnoxious voice? Lex Looooo-ger) told us that Ric Flaaaaair would be on the card. Twenty seven days after they fired him. I guess they didn't want to spend the money to re do the spots.

Then again, they continue to announce Paul E Dangerously and Missy Hyatt for the tour. They were pulled off cards immediately following the Bash PPV. They also are continuing to announce Scott Steiner for the Bash tour, and they've known for several weeks that he won't be back for several months. I wonder if they're afraid to tell the truth or if this is just a simple case of incompetence.

Jim Ross' commentary on the Pay Per View may not have been quite up to par, especially when you consider that he told us before the Luger Windham

match that Luger had dropped out of the University of Miami to play football, then later told us that he graduated with a high grade point average. There's a reason for that. Immediately following the PPV, Ross was taken to a hospital where he spent quite a bit of time in the emergency room, diagnosed with kidney stones. He had to have been in excruciating pain during the telecast, yet somehow managed to finish it. We salute Jim for his professionalism.

In case you've missed it, Barry Windham is now a babyface. They did it without the benefit of a turn, which has left most of the fans at arena shows scratching their heads as to who to cheer (Windham is now working against heels).

Jack Ortizano called with an interesting angle. Lex Luger comes out one week and wrestles and talks as a babyface. The next week, he comes out and wrestles as a killer heel, complete with heel interview. This keeps up week after week for several weeks before Lex, as a babyface, finally admits the reason for his temperament change is in fact the steroids that he's been taking. All throughout this, Jim Ross and the other announcers make fun or demean the freakish, unnatural bodies that some wrestlers in other organizations have. Lex is a complete babyface when this is over, having completed a drug rehabilitation program at the Betty Ford Centre or wherever. Jack reasons that since Luger has been turned so much already that it really wouldn't hurt to confuse the fans a little more anyway.

That show will feature a one night tournament (or at least the finals of a non existent tournament) to crown the new United States Champion. It will most likely come down to Nikita Koloff vs Dustin Rhodes, which could have a disastrous result. Nothing against Dustin; he's a good wrestler and a much better worker than his daddy had ever dreamed of being. The problem is, he's just not ready for this kind of push and title. Right now, the best thing Dustin could do to get out of his father's shadow would be to stop talking like him. I've heard of fathers wanting to relive their childhood through their sons, but folks, this is carrying things just a bit too far.

WCW continues to infuriate the people it needs the most. This time it's the newsstand magazines. WCW has issued a notice that the only ringside photographers they will allow will those associated with the London Publishing Group, i.e. the Apter mags. Bill Apter is helping WCW put together their version of the WWF magazine and it should be on the newsstands this week. I have no idea who'll be writing the stuff (that's not true. The people writing it will be only those who kiss Herd & Rhodes' ass), but be assured you'll need hip boots when reading it. I'd give a review of the magazine here, but I seriously doubt if I made the complimentary mailing list.

Anyway, what this means is that mags like *Wrestling Eye*, *Wrestling World*, and *Main Event* won't be allowed to have photographers ringside at either Titan or WCW shows. This severely limits what they can do. The funny continued on page 11

IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN

By Jon Gallagher

The topic of phone conversations over the last two weeks have been pretty much the same: What's Ric Flair going to do?

Many other newsletters and inside fans are salivating at the idea of a Hulk Hogan-Ric Flair match. They claim that that match up would result in record breaking gates everywhere. They cite the next Wrestlemania as the first sellout of this series.

The WWF is also drooling at the prospect. I've been told numerous times over the past couple weeks that Flair is definitely in and that he and Hogan start in arenas in October.

It'll never happen.

Vince McMahon won't let it happen.

To understand why it won't, we have to take a look at the marketing techniques used by the WWF.

First of all, they only match up Hogan against killer heels. Sgt. Slaughter has been a contradiction to that philosophy, but not much of a deviation when it comes right down to it. Slaughter was not portrayed as a physical monster, yet one who was an enemy of what Hogan stands for: Mom, apple pie and the red, white and blue.

Going back over the list of Hogan opponents, you can see a pattern. If the opponent is not physically big, then he has been marketed as the only man who could possibly beat Hogan by beating everyone else in his path.

All those who have been set up to wrestle Hogan have been set up over a lengthy period of time. During that time, they are involved in impressive feuds in which they come off impervious. Each has some sort of special gimmick that would allow him to beat the WWF champ.

Just because Ric Flair *might* enter the WWF is no sign that he would fill those shoes right away.

Those fans who read newsletters and magazines are familiar with Flair. The average WWF fan is not. The average WWF fan watches only WWF telecasts. He buys only the WWF Magazine. He is not a stereotypical wrestling fan. he has been programmed by Titan Sports to cheer and boo on cue. He is brainwashed into believing whatever spiel Titan announcers give concerning the background of their wrestlers. This is reinforced through the use of videos, skits, angles and interviews.

According to the WWF, Ric Flair, at this moment, does not exist.

The only way a Flair Hogan match up would draw without Flair being hyped up first, is if Vince McMahon would bring Flair in as the NWA champion. Not former, current.

And with Vince's track record of not recognizing either a wrestler's past (he won't even acknowledge Iron Sheik as being the man Hogan beat for his first title!) or other promotions, a Flair Hogan match will never happen.

If for some reason Flair was brought into the WWF, and they did match him and Hogan together, you can be assured that the match would not be an automatic sell out.

Very few inside fans would go to see the match because they would realize that their hero, Ric Flair, would be squashed by an inferior wrestler. Very few WWF fans would go to see the match because they wouldn't recognize Flair's name, and Hulk by himself doesn't have the drawing power he once had.

The only people who would care about the match would be those who Bill Apter and his magazines could influence and whatever crowd the WWF could muster with limited hype time.

On Pay Per View, this match could be a one time success, but be assured that, unless Flair would pin Hogan on the PPV, the match would never sell out another arena anywhere in the country.

(No matter how many time Gorilla Monsoon would tell you it would. Remember, he thinks that Shane Douglas vs Black Bart could sell out any arena in the country).

The bottom line is this: McMahon isn't in this business to make fans happy. He's in it to make money. For the most part, these two go hand in hand.

And that's the exact reason why Hogan and Flair would never be a success at the coming Wrestlemania.

It's also the reason that Flair and Hogan won't be going into a feud "cold" in October.

It'll just never happen.



World Championship Wrestling report continued from page 9...

part is, Bill Apter cried rivers when Titan banned him from their shows. He called me and asked me to take some photos from my front row seat at a taping I was to attend (not knowing how stupid I am when it comes to cameras - I have to ask what size film a 35mm camera takes). Now here he is the only photog allowed at WCW stuff. I wonder if he feels sorry for Napolitano or Carmine.

This just in: WCW has pulled out of all arena shows booked in September where they have been drawing 2500 or less. This includes Charlotte and Richmond, and gee, just about everywhere. Many of the wrestlers have signed on for a \$300 per night guarantee, and the prospect of working four or five dates during the month is suddenly becoming a lot less appealing.

One more thing...Sting's mother was in attendance at the Baltimore Bash and was telling people around her that Dusty had *already* been given his notice. While I'm sure that's not true, it sure would explain a lot.



RICK STEINER
REAL NAME: ROBERT REXSTEINER
TRAINED BY: EDDIE SHARKEY
YEAR DEBUTED: 1985

TITLES HELD: UWF Tag titles (with Sting 1987), NWA TV title (1988), US Tag Team (with Eddie Gilbert 1989), NWA World Tag titles (with Scott Steiner, 1989-91), US Tag titles (with Scott 1990), IWGP (with Scott 1991)

Rick Steiner wrestled for the University of Michigan and was an All American in 1983. He came out of training camp with a reputation of not one to mess with.

He made is professional debut in the AWA against Curt Hennig. He was used as a jobber at first, despite his natural physique and strength.

His first regular job in wrestling was in Montreal where he worked as a jobber before heading to the Mid South to work for Bill Watts.

It was there that he became known for his power and developed a better than average workrate. He teamed with Buzz Sawyer for a while and learned a lot from the veteran. They worked together at the first Crockett Cup in New Orleans.

Later, he would join Eddie Gilbert's Hot Stuff International, taking Eddie's side when the group broke up. He later, continuing as a heel, worked with Sting as his tag team partner. His belly to belly suplex that he used as a finisher in the Mid South, got him third place in the 1986 Wrestling Forum Maneuver of the Year competition.

In 1987, he came to the NWA with the sale of the UWF to Jim Crockett. Working as a heel as part of the Varsity Club, he quickly got over as a babyface in his dumb jock role, even though he was playing the part of a heel. He continued as a part of the Varsity Club through the fall until he turned babyface when attacked by Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotundo. Prior to becoming a babyface, he did things that got him over as one by leading the crowd in chants of "Syracuse Sucks!" to get his partner Rotundo upset.

He began teaming with brother Scott Steiner in 1989, a team that has been hailed as one of the best of all time. At first, the NWA was going to push him as a George the Animal Steele clone, and went as far one time to say he had been injured in a car accident. That idea was dropped and the character he portrays today, a big powerhouse, yet simple jock, is the one that was used instead.

Rick began wearing the amateur headgear when part of the Varsity Club. He continues to wear the headgear, and has since had both upper arms tattooed. He's nicknamed the Dog Faced Gremlin.



MEMPHIS




with help from Bill Burnett

I guess when you can't come up with original angles, you start "borrowing" stuff from other promotions. The main focus of the promotion over the past couple of weeks seems to have centered on the love life of Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony and his valet, Dirty White Girl.

We begin this episode of "the Young and the Wrestle-less" with Eric Embry complaining about Dirty White Boy and how he was interfering in his matches and his life. DWB comes out and whacks Embry over the head with a 2 x 4 (they must have found these on special this week, like they did with folding chairs last week) and he's knocked out. That creates a problem of sorts because scheduled for TV is DWB and Danny Davis against Embry and Pritchard. Embry can't wrestle, so he's replaced by Chris Candino, a guy who usually opens the Monday night cards. During the match, DWG and Miss Texas got into it and Embry recovered sufficiently enough to come in from behind, grab her, and take her off behind the curtains (we need to add a new wrestling rule: Heels can run behind the curtain, but an invisible force/barrier stops any babyfaces from being able to follow them).

Dirty White Boy then spends quite a bit of the rest of the show hunting for her. He never finds her, but she does come back and she's hysterical. She's crying, and sobbing and the impression they're trying to create is that Embry raped her while backstage. Why she wasn't screaming during this or why Tony couldn't hear those screams remains a mystery. Michael St. John reinforced the idea with home viewers by saying that there was no telling what Embry had done to her.

This all lead to a match on Monday night between DWB and Embry which wound up with DWB winning by DQ after Tom Pritchard interfered. The next weekend on TV, we had a tender moment. DWB got down on his knees and proposed to his wife, DWG. He was almost immediately attacked (why wait to break up the ceremony of the reception?) by Embry, Pritchard, and Tojo Yamamoto. They smacked him in the head with a garbage can and left him laying. That leaves us with a handicap match for the following Monday with Embry, Pritchard and Miss Texas wrestling Tony and his cousin Crazy Harold, who, we're told, has never wrestled.

See? In one fell swoop, we get the Hardliners kidnapping

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Missy, Randy proposing to Liz, and Big Josh coming in from the north woods. Why watch any other promotion when you can see it all repeated right here?

Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller are still together, but that may be in jeopardy (If I predict it enough, someday I'll be right). They had an interesting match on the 7/22 Memphis card where they took on the Barroom Brawlers in a Barroom Match where props such as beer bottles, tables, chairs, kitchen sinks and...well, that about covers it. Fuller and Jarrett won the match but that wasn't the end of it. On the following Saturday, Jeff was wrestling Leatherface (same gimmick, new wrestler) when the Brawlers jumped in the ring to interfere and beat him to a pulp. Later in the show, Jeff took his official Jim Duggan 2 x 4 and broke the boards over the Brawler's skulls. The final result of all this is a cage match on the 7/29 card with Jarrett and Lawler vs the Brawlers with the losing team having to break up. Hard to call this one, because if the Brawlers are like most young teams, their push ends just after they get over. Still, I know they want to split up Jarrett and Fuller. I'm still betting that when they finally do, Jeff is the one who turns heel.

They showed a video of Jeff and Robert traveling around the city and visiting landmarks such as Mud Island, Graceland, and others. The Chamber of Commerce and Memphis Convention Bureau put together a similar video (only they did it first) which features Mr. Memphis, the city's new "mascot" character visiting the same spots. The inside line here is that Jerry Lawler is upset that he wasn't chosen for the Mr. Memphis role because of all the philanthropic work he's done for the city. The city's version appears on a local cable access channel (and is sent to prospective CEO's for selling Memphis as a convention site) so this being done on the NBC affiliate is more than a slap in the face. Why they didn't use Lawler instead of Jarrett and Fuller is unknown. Maybe Jerry still wants the spot.

Eddie Marlin and referee Paul Neighbouroughs did lose their handicap match to Eric Embry a couple weeks back and both are now as bald as a marlin...er, mackerel, or whatever.

World Wrestling Federation

Vince has announced the steroid testing as we told you last issue. At that time, we weren't sure if he was serious (as a matter of fact, I joked with some callers that anyone found *not* on steroids would be immediately fired) or not. We're still not sure, but Titan has contacted several independent testing facilities to do the tests for them.

This means very little still, as I'm told that masking steroid use is relatively simple and that some steroids, such as Human Growth Hormone (HGH), can't be detected anyway. Here's what I expect to come out of all this: Vince will make a deal with three or four of his wrestlers where they will make sure they test positive for steroid use. He'll make them sacrificial lambs, so to speak, and pull them from all dates (amidst all sorts of fanfare) until they get off the stuff. Shoot, they could even do an angle with this where...well, I think Jack Ortizano's idea from the WCW section could apply here as well.

Jake Roberts is out of action and will miss several house shows over the next few weeks. His injured neck has flared up again. You may remember Honky Tonk Man smashing a guitar across his neck and back some time ago during a "Snake Pit" segment. Although not a shoot, it did do some damage that crops up from time to time. He is being replaced on the house shows by Jim Neidhart.

Speaking of injuries, we look for Bret Hart to take the Intercontinental title at Summerscam due to an injury to Curt Hennig's back. Curt's been in and out of the WWF's line up on house shows lately, missing a lot of weekend dates especially. I don't think it was originally planned for Hart to take the title, but Curt's telling people he needs the time off in order to properly recover.

He won't be the only one taking time off following SummerScam. Hulk Hogan is supposedly to start work on another movie which should keep him busy through the rest of the fall. He should be back just in time to start hyping the Survivor's Series.

Earthquake John Tenta may have been given a pink slip by Titan. At this time, it's just rumor and the only thing to back it up is the fact that Neidhart in his fill-in role, has been pinning EQ. That really doesn't mean anything, because usually when someone fills in for a star unannounced on a house show, the fill in is put over to make the customers happy.

Road Warrior Hawk is back in action following about a six week layoff due to an injured back. He'll be taking it kind of easy until SummerScam where he and Animal wrestle the Nasty Boys in a match with special stip. The stip appears to mean that if the Nasty Boys lose by DQ or COR, the belts will change hands. That makes the rumor of the Roadies winning the titles one of the most repeated over the phone this past couple of weeks.

The next set of TV tapes will take place in Rochester, NY on 8/19 and in Erie on the 20th. After that, they move back to Canada for a 9/9 TV shoot in Ottawa and the next night in Cornwall.

Speaking of Canada, we told you last issue about Titan's agreement with the Royal Mounted Police in Canada to not show or use the Mountie character on Canadian TV or house shows. Well, they sort of kept their promise. Jacques Rougeau appeared at their latest Toronto show and was billed as Jacques Rougeau. He wore shorts to the ring instead of the Mountie outfit, but his t-shirt said "I am the MOUNTIE!" For those in attendance who couldn't read, Jacques grabbed the house mike and told everyone, "I am the Mountie!" The real Mounties had threatened to arrest him for impersonating an officer if he used the gimmick north of the border.

Hulk Hogan did some public service stuff for the Special Olympics in Minneapolis a couple weekends back. We'd be more inclined to give him a pat on the back for this apparent non selfish gesture, had it not been for all the bad publicity tied to the steroid trial. Something tells me that this appearance was done more to build back up his reputation rather than something he "wanted" to do.

His appearance on the Arseneo Hall show had drawn more heat from wrestling fans and those within the business than the trial itself. His claims that he only did steroids three times and then only to correct a medical problem came off as being an excuse and a coverup. If he had come out and did anything but defend himself, he might have come off better. One wrestler I talked with brought up the quote, "Me thinks thou dost protest too much," talking about the show (Correct me if I'm wrong, coz I'm gonna have to know stuff like this, but wasn't that from "The Courtship of Miles Standish"?).

Here's the revised line up for SummerScam: Hogan & Warrior vs Slaughter & Sheik (Sid as special ref); Randy and Liz tie the knot; Hennig vs Hart; Nasty Boys vs Road Warriors; DiBiase vs Virgil (with the Million Dollar Belt at stake); Bossman vs Mountie (loser spends night in jail); Sheepwhackers vs Tugboat & Quake with Andre the Statue in the Sheeps' corner; Valentine vs Rotundo; and Steamboat, Kerry & Davey Roid vs Roma, Hercules and Warlord. From what we're hearing from around the country, this one's average asking price is around \$30. You gotta ask yourself, is there really thirty bucks worth of entertainment here???

Sid Vicious/Justice worked in his first match on the latest set of tapes from Calgary. He squashed Ted DiBiase in a dark match at the taping.

Top Ten List

A couple of them actually. These were done by myself with input from several readers who have called over the past couple weeks:

TOP TEN THINGS RIC FLAIR CAN DO IN HIS SPARE TIME

10. Well, Titan has this 900 number where you can test your trivia skills...
9. Start a chain of hair bleaching salons
8. Wrestle somewhere as the Black Scorpion
7. Do American Express commercials (Do you know me?)
6. Then there's always those new A&W Root Beer commercials
5. Start collecting WWF trading cards and wrestling dolls
4. Get patent on toilet paper with Jim & Dusty's pictures on each sheet.
3. Begin publishing his own newsletter or buy *Wrestling Forum*
2. Go stand in the unemployment line and wait for Dusty & Jim to join him.
1. Start a wrestling school where he can greet students at the door and say, "Now, we go to school!"

TOP TEN WAYS JIM HERD AND DUSTY RHODES COULD FURTHER SCREW UP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

10. Hire Jameson away from Prime Time Wrestling for play by play with Jason Hervey doing color.
9. Do a Wrestling Album with Ricky Morton, Missy Hyatt and El Gigante having featured solos.
8. Hire George Zahorian as company physician
7. Have El Gigante do his impression of Pee Wee Herman in a theater.
6. Advertise wrestlers like Adrian Adonis, Gorgeous George, Bruiser Brody, and Frank Gotch for upcoming PPVs
5. Tape shows three months in advance.
4. Fire any loyal employees who might be left.
3. One word: Sapphire
2. Get Missy to have double mastectomy.
1. Let the Son of a Son of a Plumber have a major title sometime soon.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

7/20 CHICAGO (IND) - courtesy of **KEN SNIDER**...Bad Boy Butch beat Sammy Cougar...Cody Hunter over Lance Christopher...Mike Anthony beat Shogun Assassin...Trevor Blanchard pinned Johnny K...Italian Connection over Motor City Hitmen...Dazzler beat Kathy T...Frank Melson over Ron Powers by DQ...Capt. Fantastic downed Fireman Jim...KC Knight pinned Chainsaw Thrasher...Madd Maxx DDQ Ken Patera...Ron Powers squashed Butch...Steve Regal downed Sonny Rogers...Untouchables beat Windy City Dream Team...NOTES: attendance 500...Untouchables win Windy City tag titles in this a cage match...lots of blood on the card...taped for TV with the fan convention in attendance...Rogers vs Regal was consensus of best match...

7/23 LOS ANGELES (WCW) - courtesy of **MARK GROSS**...Richard Morton over Black Bart (C-)...Z Man pinned Diamond Studd (C)...Hard Liners beat Josh & PU News...Steve Austin drew Johnny B Badd (B)...Ron Simmons pinned Terry Taylor (B+)...Barry Windham over Yellow Dog (C)...One Man Gang DCOR El Gigante (ZZ)...Luger pinned Bobby Eaton (A) ...Sting pinned Nikita (C+)...NOTES: Attendance: 2500...a ton of no shows including Blackblood, Dustin Rhodes, The Steiners, Missy Hyatt, Paul E, and Ric Flair. Very few matches took place that were announced in the "official line up" sold in programs...autographs were promised to fans, but never materialized...

7/27 ORLANDO (IWF) - courtesy of **SHANNON ROSE**...Incredible Thor over Iron Eagle...Caribbean Kid beat Rick Diamond...Thunder & Lightening beat Nuclear Assassin #1 & Dennis Allen...Chubby McCool pinned Mike DeBacco...Dynamite Express & Lou Perez DDQ Bad Boys & Cliff Anderson...Mondo Clean beat John Boy...2nd taping...McCool beat John Boy...Crocodile McKenzie & Caribbean Kid beat Heartbreakers...Rick diamond beat Terry Davis...Lou Perez beat Possessor by DQ...Mondo Clean pinned Mike deBacco...3rd taping...Thor over Nuclear Assassin #2...Stomper beat John Boy...Heartbreakers beat deBacco & Terry Davis...Bad Boys over McKenzie & Kid...Thunder Lightening beat Joe Bruce & Jabba Rouk...Dynamite Express beat Tom Sawyer & Dennis Allen...4th taping...Long Riders beat Nuclear Assassins...McCool over Tom Sawyer...Clean over Allen...Thunder and Lightening beat Purple Terror & Punisher...possessor beat Joe Bruce...Lou Perez & Chris Proctor beat Cliff Anderson & Rick Diamond...5th taping...Cliff Anderson beat McKenzie...Diamond over DeBacco...Thunder & Lightening beat Nuclear Assassins...Thor over Punisher...Heartbreakers over Allen & John Boy...Clean pinned Davis...NOTES: Attendance: 600 Ref stopped match Kid and Diamond due to Diamond's hand being broke. It was a work. Heartbreakers ran in after Thunder and Lightening Match and vice-versa....

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

19

Several of you out there have been looking for Stadium Club cards for me. You can stop now. I've got more than I'll ever need. Thanks for your help. Now if you'll just keep concentrating on those Ramon Martinez rookie cards.....

We have a serious problem that's developed and it needs to be corrected immediately. I know that some of you pass on you copy of the Forum to a friend after you're finished reading. While I'd rather have that friend pay us for the copy (that would have helped a lot towards not selling the bulletin), I realize there is nothing I can do about it. But someone out there is violating our copyright. Someone is photocopying the Forum on a regular basis and sending it out. The trouble is, last issue, you forgot to put a stamp on it. You just photocopied the whole thing, including the stamp and sent it that way. I got an official inquiry from the Postal Service requesting subscription records (voluntary on my behalf) for subscribers in the city in which it was postmarked. If they find out who photocopied a stamp (even by accident) and tried to send it, it's going to cost you a lot more than a gift subscription would have. And if you are photocopying the bulletin on a regular basis and sending it out on your own, even if you put a real stamp on it, whatever they do to you will serve you right!

Hey, folks, the number one bulletin on the market today is Wade Keller's *Pro Wrestling Torch*. This week's issue has an exclusive interview with Cowboy Bill Watts and his opinions on Jim Herd, Dusty Rhodes and WCW in general. He interviews like you would expect: no punches pulled. If you're missing the Torch, you're missing a lot. Send \$5.00 for four weeks worth (published weekly) to Torch, Box 201844, Minneapolis, MN 55420.

A friend of mine just called and said he tried to book Ric Flair on an independent card he was promoting in October. He spoke with Ric personally and Ric told him that he wasn't making any kind of commitment until after September 1. When asked if he'll be headed to the WWF, Japan or WCW, Ric replied, "Ya never know!"

Out of space already? Where does the time go when you're having fun? And why do weekends seem to take forever when you've got a really bad abscess tooth, you look like you've got a softball in your cheek, and your dentist won't see you until Monday afternoon? Oh, the mysteries of life. Still, I think I'll take the toothache over hearing PU News one more time.

Till Next time, Bye!

W R E S T L I N G FORUM

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